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Industrial Disputes, Australia

The number of disputes (strikes or lockouts), employees involved and working days lost; cause of dispute; duration; and the reason work resumed

Reference period June 2024

Released 11/09/2024

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Key statistics

In the June quarter 2024:

- 52 disputes occurred.
- 23,800 employees were involved and 21,900 working days lost.
- disputes occurred in 6 industries and in 6 states and territories.

During the year ended June 2024, there were 193 disputes and a total of 120,000 working days lost.

Key statistics

	Quarter		Year ended	
	March Quarter 2024	June Quarter 2024	June Quarter 2023	June Quarter 2024
Number of disputes (no.)				
New	36	43	203	179
Total	48	52	213	193
Employees involved ('000)				
New	10.6	23.6	53.3	65.9
Total	12.8	23.8	54.3	67.3
Working days lost ('000)	16.8	21.9	67.1	120.0

Overview

In the June quarter 2024, there were:

- 52 disputes, an increase from 48 in the previous quarter.
- 23,800 employees involved, an increase from 23,600 in the previous quarter.
- 21,900 working days lost, an increase from 21,800 in the previous quarter.

Year ended estimates:

- 193 disputes occurred, 20 less than in the previous year.
- 120,000 working days were lost, 52,900 more than in the previous year.

Industrial disputes which occurred during the quarter

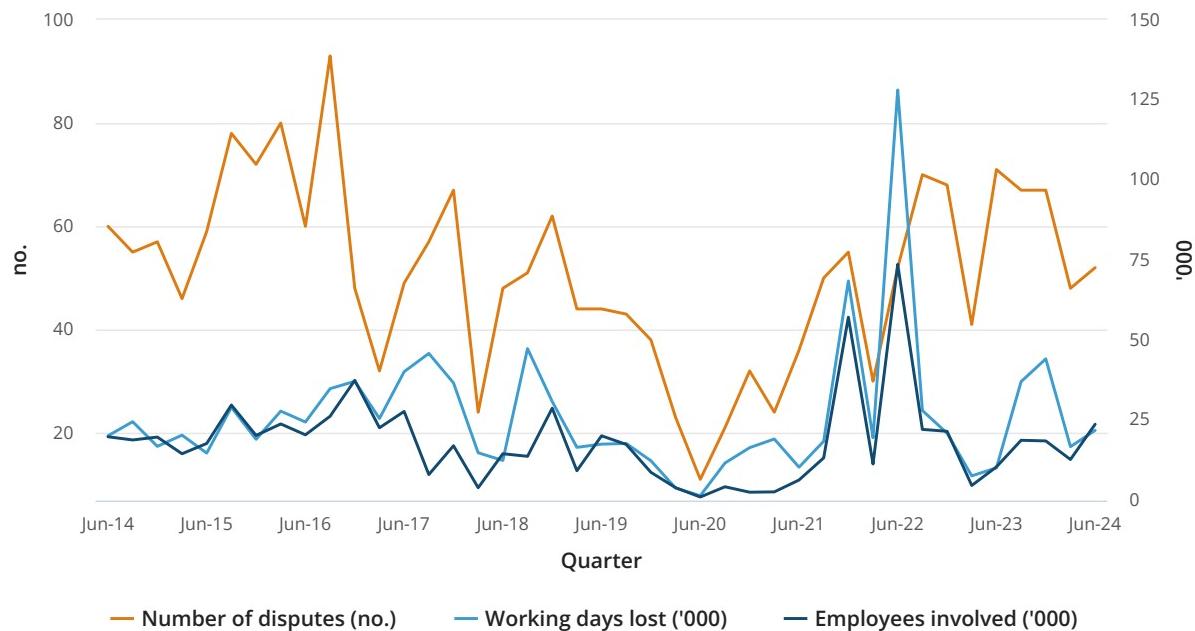
	Number of disputes		Employees involved		Working days lost
	New (no.)	Total (no.)	New ('000)	Total ('000)	('000)
June Quarter 2022	45	52	71.2	73.7	128.1
September Quarter 2022	60	70	21.2	22.2	28.1
December Quarter 2022	53	68	18.4	21.6	21.0
March Quarter 2023	33	41	4.1	4.7	7.7
June Quarter 2023	57	71	9.6	10.5	10.2
September Quarter 2023	53	67	17.4	18.8	37.1
December Quarter 2023	47	67	14.3	18.6	44.2
March Quarter 2024	36	48	10.6	12.8	16.8
June Quarter 2024	43	52	23.6	23.8	21.9

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Long-term trends

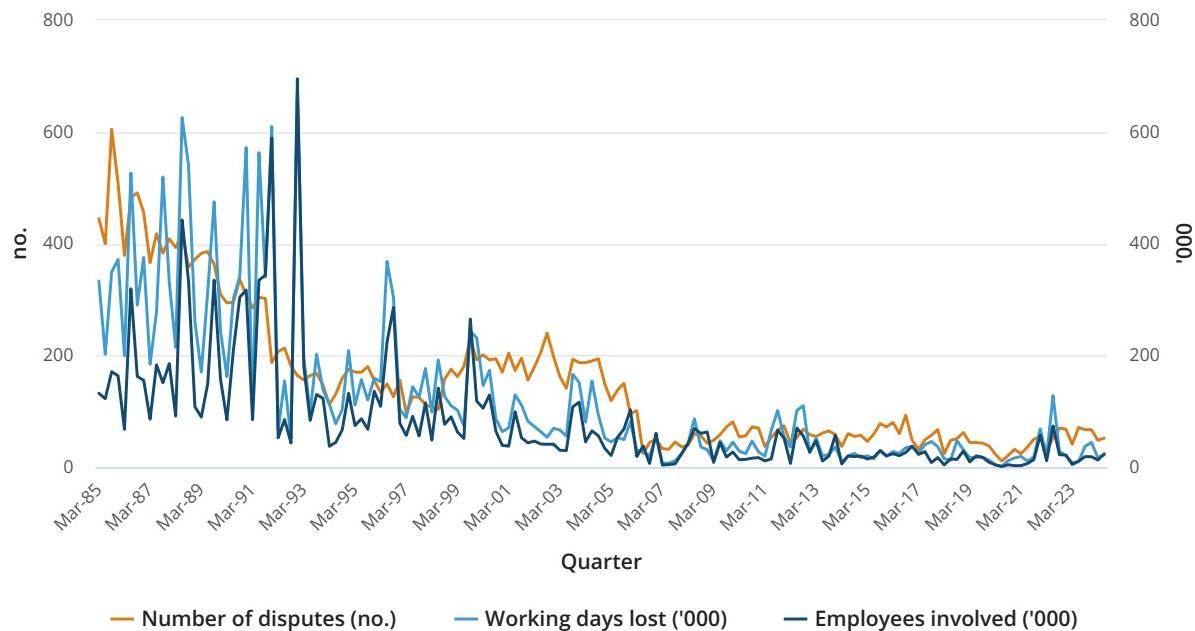
The level of industrial disputation over recent years is considerably lower than in the 1980's and prior decades.

Industrial disputes in the last 10 years, Australia



Industrial disputes historical series, Australia

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Industry

In the June quarter, disputes occurred in six industries. Over a third (40%) of the total working days lost were in the Construction industry.

Industrial disputes which occurred during the quarter, industry

	March Quarter 2024		June Quarter 2024	
	Working days lost ('000)	Working days lost per thousand employees (no.)	Working days lost ('000)	Working days lost per thousand employees (no.)
Mining				
Coal mining	-	-	-	-
Other mining	-	-	-	-
Manufacturing				
Metal product etc (a)	0.6	1.8	2.2	6.4
Other manufacturing	0.1	0.1	3.9	7.7
Construction	3.2	3.0	8.9	7.9
Transport, postal & warehousing	5.4	8.3	0.6	0.9
Education & training; Health care & social assistance	0.4	0.1	4.9	1.5
Other industries (a)	7.1	1.0	1.4	0.2
All industries	16.8	1.3	21.9	

(a) see Glossary - [Industry \(/methodologies/industrial-disputes-australia-methodology/jun-2024#glossary\)](#) - for details of industries included

(-) nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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States and territories

Disputes occurred in six states and territories in the June quarter, with nearly a half (47%) of the total working days lost occurring in Queensland.

Industrial disputes which occurred during the quarter, states and territories

	March Quarter 2024		June Quarter 2024	
	Working days lost ('000)	Working days lost per thousand employees (no.)	Working days lost ('000)	Working days lost per thousand employees (no.)
New South Wales	2.1	0.5	2.4	0.6
Victoria	2.4	0.7	2.4	0.7
Queensland	9.4	3.6	10.4	3.9
South Australia	0.1	0.1	np	np
Western Australia	2.7	1.8	4.5	3.0
Tasmania	np	np	np	np
Northern Territory	-	-	-	-
Australian Capital Territory	np	np	-	-
Australia	16.8	1.3	21.9	1.7

(np) not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

(-) nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

Cause of dispute

Most industrial disputes are Enterprise Bargaining (EB) related. Over the past 10 years, disputes over employment conditions have generally been the most prevalent.

EB related issues were the cause of 74% of disputes (29 of 39) which ended in the March quarter 2024.

Cause of dispute for disputes which ended during the quarter

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	December Quarter 2023		March Quarter 2024		
	Number of disputes (no.)	Employees involved ('000)	Working days lost ('000)	Number of disputes (no.)	Employees involved ('000)
Enterprise Bargaining related					
Remuneration	20	2.4	9.4	6	0.5
Employment conditions	30	12.4	37.9	23	9.6
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Enterprise Bargaining related					
Remuneration	-	-	-	-	-
Employment conditions	-	-	-	-	-
Health and safety	2	0.1	-	8	1.4
Job security	-	-	-	-	-
Managerial policy	1	0.1	-	-	-
Union issues	-	-	-	-	-
Other	2	2.1	1.4	2	1.0
Total	55	17.0	48.8	39	12.5

(-) nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)



Working days lost

Working days lost is a measure of the length of a dispute, relative to the number of employees involved.

Of the 39 disputes which ended in the March quarter, 17 lasted up to and including 1 day. These disputes had:

- 7,800 employees involved; and
- 6,900 working days lost.

Working days lost for disputes which ended during the quarter

	December Quarter 2023		March Quarter 2024			
	Number of disputes (no.)	Employees involved ('000)	Working days lost ('000)	Number of disputes (no.)	Employees involved ('000)	Working days lost ('000)
Up to and including 1 day	18	8.4	7.3	17	7.8	6.9
Over 1 day and up to including 2 days	12	3.7	4.5	13	2.4	3.4
Over 2 and less than 5 days	11	3.1	10.2	6	0.6	1.6
5 and less than 10 days	8	0.8	6.5	2	1.7	12.0
10 days and over	6	1.0	20.3	1	-	1.1
Total	55	17.0	48.8	39	12.5	25.1

(-) nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

Reason work resumed

The reason work resumed relates to the last day of action taken. Resumption of work can occur without resolution to the issues that triggered the dispute.

There was a pre-determined return to work for 72% of disputes (28 of 39) which ended in the March quarter 2024.

Reason work resumed for disputes which ended during the quarter

	December Quarter 2023		March Quarter 2024			
	Number of disputes (no.)	Employees involved ('000)	Working days lost ('000)	Number of disputes (no.)	Employees involved ('000)	Working days lost ('000)
Negotiation without intervention of a third party	5	np	np	4	np	np
State legislation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Federal legislation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pre-determined return to work	46	16.5	36.3	28	10.3	21.4
Resumption without negotiation	2	0.3	10.3	5	1.9	2.1
Mediation	2	np	np	2	np	np
Other reasons	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	55	17.0	48.8	39	12.5	25.1

(np) not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

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Data downloads

Time Series Spreadsheets

 Download all (507.34 KB)

Table 1: Industrial disputes which occurred during the period

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[60.35 KB]

Table 2a: Industrial disputes which occurred during the period, working days lost, industry

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[56.42 KB]

Table 2b: Industrial disputes which occurred during the period, working days lost per thousand employees, industry

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[56.3 KB]

Table 3a: Industrial disputes which occurred during the period, working days lost, states and territories

[↓ Download XLSX](#)

[65.82 KB]

Table 3b: Industrial disputes which occurred during the period, working days lost per thousand employees, states and territories

[↓ Download XLSX](#)

[64.49 KB]

Table 4a: Industrial disputes which ended during the period, cause of dispute

[↓ Download XLSX](#)

[99.98 KB]

Table 4b: Industrial disputes which ended during the period, working days lost per employee involved

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[65.99 KB]

Table 4c: Industrial disputes which ended during the period, reason work resumed

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[84.62 KB]

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This release previously used catalogue number 6321.0.55.001.

Methodology

[Industrial Disputes, Australia methodology, June 2024](#)